

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested. Claims 1-20 are in this application. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 15, and 18 have been amended.

The present application was filed on September 23, 2003 with 6 sheets of informal drawings. On October 15, 2003, applicant filed 6 sheets of formal drawings (which were received by the PTO on October 20, 2003). In the present office action, the Examiner indicated that the drawings had been accepted, but did not indicate which set of drawings had been accepted.

As a result, applicant requests that the 6 sheets of informal drawings filed with the application (and the formal drawings filed on October 15, 2003 if they were entered into the file) be replaced with the 6 sheets of replacement drawings attached in Appendix A. Marked up copies of the informal drawings have not been included as the replacement sheets are believed to be the same as the informal drawings filed with the application except for informalities.

The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 under the judicially created doctrine of double-patenting over claims 1, 2, 11, and 12 of co-pending Application No. 10/669,193. Solely for the purpose of removing this rejection to place the claims in a condition for allowance, applicant has attached a terminal disclaimer in Appendix B. As a result, claims 1, 2, 15, and 16 are allowable.

The Examiner objected to claims 3-14 and 17-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to be in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-14 and 17-20 have not been amended to be in independent form because claims 1, 2, 15, and 16 are patentable in view of the terminal disclaimer.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 15, and 18 have been amended to alternately and additionally claim the present invention. It is believed, however, that the amendments do not effect the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX A

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE
ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

Atty. Docket No. 200-65300
(PB030020AF)

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APPENDIX B

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE
ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

Atty. Docket No. 200-65300
(PB030020AF)